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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 60-117 are pending in the application. Claims 83 and 85 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-59 were previously canceled.

TITLE:

Applicants submit herewith a Corrected Bibliographic Data Sheet showing the corrected title, which reflects the change to the title submitted in the Preliminary Amendment filed April 2, 2004.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 60-62, 64-66, 69-76, 92, 95-98, 100-102, and 104-107 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539 or Traynor et al. '046.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended Claims 60 and 97 to more clearly define Applicants' invention, which now call for:

60. An automobile exterior sideview mirror system comprising:
an exterior sideview mirror assembly adapted for attachment to a side of an automobile;

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said exterior sideview mirror assembly including a reflective element assembly;

said reflective element assembly including a first reflective element having unit magnification and a second reflective element having a curvature;

said first reflective element and said second reflective element supported at a support element and with a demarcation element between said first and second reflective elements, said first and second reflective elements abutting opposing sides of said demarcation element;

said second reflective element disposed at an outboard, upper portion of said reflective element assembly when said reflective element assembly is included in said exterior sideview mirror assembly and when said exterior sideview mirror assembly is attached to the side of an automobile;

said second reflective element supported on said support element adjacent to and separate from said first reflective element; and

wherin substantially the entire portion of said second reflective element that abuts said demarcation element has its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of said first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of said second reflective element transitions to the field of view of said first reflective element smoothly.

97. An automobile exterior sideview mirror system comprising:
an exterior sideview mirror assembly adapted for attachment to a side of an automobile;
said exterior sideview mirror assembly including a reflective element assembly;
said reflective element assembly including a first reflective element having unit magnification and a second reflective element having a curvature;
said second reflective element disposed at an outer, upper portion of said reflective element assembly when said reflective element assembly is included in said exterior sideview mirror assembly and when said exterior sideview mirror assembly is attached to the side of an automobile;

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said second reflective element disposed adjacent to and separate from said first reflective element;

said first reflective element including a rearward field of view having a principal axis, said second reflective element having a rearward field of view having a principal axis, said principal axis of said second reflective element angled downwardly with respect to the principal axis of said first reflective element

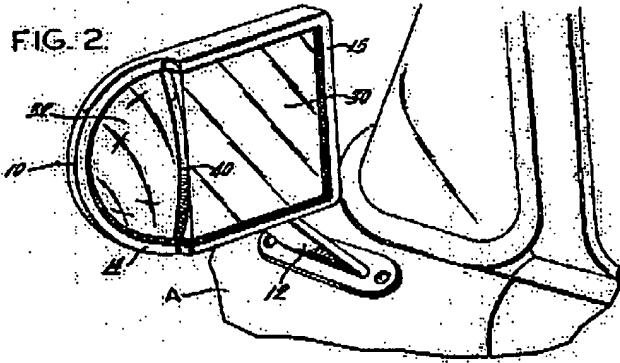
when mounted in said exterior sideview mirror assembly; a demarcation element between said first reflective element and said second reflective element, said first and second reflective elements abutting opposing sides of said demarcation element; and

wherein substantially the entire portion of said second reflective element abutting said demarcation element has its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of said first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of said second reflective element transitions to the field of view of said first reflective element smoothly.

Applicants respectfully urge that none of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor discloses or

suggests the claimed combination. For example, with reference to Claim 60, none of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor discloses or suggests an exterior side view mirror system that includes a first reflective element with a unit magnification and a second reflective element with a curvature, with substantially the entire portion of the second reflective element abutting a demarcation element, which is positioned between the first and second reflective elements, and having its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of the second reflective element transitions to the field of view of the first reflective element smoothly.

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In contrast, Tobin discloses a mirror assembly that includes a flat reflective element and a portion of a spherical segment, preferably one half of a spherical segment, such that the peak of the convex section is flush with the front face 31 of the planar mirror 30. Therefore, as best seen in FIG. 2, the remaining portion of the convex section 32 is not coplanar with and in fact is recessed below the surface of the planar mirror 30. Nor does Holt or Traynor cure the deficiencies of Tobin. Therefore, even when combined, the references do not disclose or suggest the claimed combination.

With reference to Claim 76, Claim 76 further calls for the principal axis of the rearward field of view of the second reflective element to be directed generally outwardly and downwardly with respect to the principal axis of the first reflective element. Applicants respectfully urge that neither Tobin, Holt, nor Traynor discloses or suggests the claimed combination. In contrast, in each case, the second reflective element has a principal axis that is either aligned with or parallel to the principal axis of the second reflective element. Therefore,

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none of the references disclose or suggest a principal axis of a second reflective element being directed generally outwardly and downwardly with respect to the principal axis of the first reflective element.

With respect to Claim 77, Claim 77 further calls for the principal axis of the rearward field of view of the second reflective element to form a downward angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the automobile in a range of 0.75° to about 5° when the principal axis of the first reflective element is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the automobile. Again, Applicants respectfully urge that this is neither taught nor suggested by the references alone or in combination.

With reference to Claim 97, Applicants respectfully urge that none of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor discloses or suggests an exterior side view mirror system that includes first and second reflective elements, with the rearward field of view of the first and second reflective elements each having a principal axis, with the principal axis of the rearward field of view of the second reflective element being downward relative to the principal axis of the rearward field of view of the first reflective element in combination with substantially the entire portion of the second reflective element abutting a demarcation element, which is located between the first and second elements, such that its front surface is generally coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element whereby an image in the rearward field of view of the second reflective element transitions to the rearward field of view of the first reflective element smoothly. As best understood from each of the figures in the Tobin reference, the curved reflective element has a principal axis that is coplanar with the principal axis of the planar reflective element. Further, neither Holt nor Traynor remedies

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the deficiencies of Tobin. Therefore, even when combined, the references do not teach or suggest the claimed combination.

With respect to Claims 92 and 95, reference is made to the remarks made in reference to Claim 76.

With reference to Claims 102 and 104, Applicants refer the Examiner to the remarks made in reference to Claim 76.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 60-62, 64-66, 69-76, 92, 95-98, 100-102, and 104-107 are patentably distinguishable over Tobin in view of Holt or Traynor or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 67, 68, 84, 103, and 108-117 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539 or Traynor et al. '046 and, further, in view of Enomoto '166 or Mizuta et al '302.

Claims 67, 68, and 84 depend from amended Claim 60 and, thus, incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 60. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 67, 68, and 84 are patentable over Tobin in view of Holt or Traynor for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 60. Further, Applicants respectfully urge that neither Enomoto nor Mizuta remedies the deficiencies of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor. For example, neither Enomoto nor Mizuta discloses or suggests, for example, an exterior sideview mirror system that includes a first reflective element with a unit magnification and a second reflective element with a curvature, with substantially the entire portion of the second reflective element abutting a demarcation element that is positioned between the first and second reflective elements and having its front surface generally

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said second reflective element disposed at an outboard outer, upper portion of said reflective element assembly wherein at least a portion of said reflective element is disposed beneath said second reflective element at an outboard lower portion of said reflective element assembly when said reflective element assembly is included in said exterior sideview mirror assembly and when said exterior sideview mirror assembly is attached to the side of an automobile;

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coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of the second reflective element transitions to the field of view of the first reflective element smoothly. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 67, 68, and 84 are patentably distinguishable over Tobin in view of Holt, Traynor, Enomoto, Mizuta, or any other reference of record.

With reference to Claim 103, Claim 103 depends from amended Claim 97 and, thus, incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 97. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Enomoto nor Mizuta cure the deficiencies of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claims 67, 68, and 84. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 103 are patentably distinguishable over Tobin in view of Holt, Traynor, Enomoto, or Mizuta or any other reference of record.

Claim 108 has been amended to more clearly Applicants' invention, which now calls for:

An automobile exterior sideview mirror system comprising:
an exterior sideview mirror assembly adapted for attachment to a side of an automobile;
said exterior sideview mirror assembly including a reflective element assembly;
said reflective element assembly including a first reflective element having unit magnification and a second reflective element having a curvature;
an actuator operable to adjust the orientation of said reflective element assembly;
said first reflective element extending from an inboard side of said reflective element assembly to an outboard side of said reflective element assembly;

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abutting a demarcation element, which is positioned between the first and second reflective elements, and having its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element whereby the image in the field of view of the second reflective element transitions to the field of view with the first reflective element smoothly. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 108 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 109-117, are patentably distinguishable over Tobin in view of Holt, Traynor, Enomoto, or Mizuta or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 63, 77-82, 89-91, 93, 94, and 99 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539 or Traynor et al. '046 and, further, in view of Marhauer '770.

Claims 63, 77-82, 89-91, 93 and 94 are dependent upon amended Claim 60. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 63, 77-82, 89-91, 93 and 94 are patentably distinguishable over Tobin in view of Holt or Traynor for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 60. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Marhauer does not cure the deficiencies of any of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor. For example, Marhauer does not disclose or suggest an exterior sideview mirror system that includes a first reflective element with a unit magnification and a second reflective element with a curvature, with substantially the entire portion of the second reflective element abutting a demarcation element that is positioned between the first and second reflective elements and having its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of the second reflective element transitions to the field of view of the first reflective element smoothly. Therefore, Applicants

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respectfully submit that Claims 63, 77-82, 89-91, 93, and 94 are patentably distinguishable over Tobin in view of Holt, Traynor, or Marhauer or any other reference of record.

With respect to Claim 99, Claim 99 depends from amended Claim 97 and, thus, incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 97. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Marhauer does not cure the deficiencies of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor for at least the reasons set forth above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 99 is patentably distinguishable over Tobin, in view of Holt, Traynor, or Marhauer.

The Examiner rejects Claims 86-88 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539 or Traynor et al. '046 and, further, in view of Bauer et al. '864 or Kanazawa '367.

Claim 86-88 are dependent upon amended Claim 60 and, thus, incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 60. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Bauer nor Kanazawa cures the deficiencies of Tobin, Holt, or Traynor. For example, neither Bauer nor Kanazawa discloses or suggests an exterior rearview mirror assembly with a first reflective element with a unit magnification and a second reflective element with a curvature, with substantially the entire portion of the second reflective element abutting a demarcation element, which is positioned between the first and second reflective element, and having its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of the second reflective element transitions to the field of view of the first reflective element smoothly.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Claims 86-88 are patentably distinguishable over

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Tobin in view of Holt, Traynor, Bauer et al. or Kanazawa or in view of any other reference of record.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance of all claims.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully submitted,

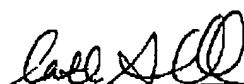
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Date

July 10, 2006

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said second reflective element disposed at an outboard outer, upper portion of said reflective element assembly wherein at least a portion of said reflective element is disposed beneath said second reflective element at an outboard lower portion of said reflective element assembly when said reflective element assembly is included in said exterior sideview mirror assembly and when said exterior sideview mirror assembly is attached to the side of an automobile;

said second reflective element disposed adjacent to and separate from said first reflective element;

a demarcation element between said first reflective element and said second reflective element, said first and second reflective elements abutting opposing sides of said demarcation element; and

wherein substantially the entire portion of said second reflective element abutting said demarcation element has its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of said first reflective element whereby an image in the field of view of said second reflective element transitions to the field of view of the first reflective element smoothly.

Applicants respectfully urge that none of Tobin, Holt, Traynor, Enomoto, and Mizuta discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, none of the references discloses or suggests an exterior rearview mirror assembly that includes a reflective element assembly with a first reflective element having a unit magnification and a second reflective element having a curvature, with the first reflective element extending from an inboard side of the reflective element assembly to an outboard side of the reflective element assembly in combination with the second reflective element disposed at an outboard upper portion of the reflective element assembly wherein at least a portion of the first reflective is disposed beneath the second reflective element at an outboard lower portion of the reflective element assembly and, further, in combination with substantially the entire portion of the second reflective element

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